

Ref. No: 347  
From: Public  
Date: 10/02/23  
Subject: Burden of mental health admissions

## REQUEST

I would like to obtain information on any adult patients who have been admitted to hospital from A&E (not A&E attendances themselves, only those who are admitted to medical beds) from 01/08/2021 to 31/07/2022.

Ideally the information would include age, gender, dates of admission, diagnosis and whether the psychiatric diagnosis was their presenting complaint, or a comorbidity i.e. had been admitted with an unrelated problem but also had a known mental health condition. I do not wish to obtain any personal identifiable details.

These will likely be based on the ICD F0-F99 codes but **EXCLUDING** learning / intellectual difficulties (F70-F89) and disorders of psychological development. I only require information on those aged 18 and over.

Would it also be possible to be given the data (inc. age / gender / month of admission) for all patients admitted to hospital in that time so that I can calculate the proportion of all admissions who had a mental health disorder?

## RESPONSE

### Section 40: Personal Information

We are unable to provide a response due to the risk that individuals will be identifiable, with the Trust required to protect the identity of individuals under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Sections 40(2) and 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply, which confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

In this case, the Trust believes that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which would be breached by disclosure.

If aggregated data was required, such as the total admissions over a period of time, then the Trust would be able to provide a response on the basis that the identification of individuals would no longer be a concern.